

WASHINGTON – U.S. Congressman Allen Boyd (D-North Florida) today took action to remove bureaucratic red tape from the clean-up and prevention efforts currently underway in the Gulf by sponsoring legislation that would repeal the Jones Act.

The Jones Act of 1920 mandates that all goods transported in coast-to-coast trade be carried in U.S. flagged vessels that are constructed in the U.S. and owned and operated by U.S. citizens. The Water Assistance from International Vessels for Emergency Response Act (WAIVER Act) will grant a short-term waiver of the Jones Act to allow foreign vessels to assist their American counterparts with ongoing clean-up and containment efforts.

“It is unconscionable that bureaucratic red tape is putting our area at increased risk. Nothing should be standing in the way of our efforts to contain this spill and protect our coastlines, certainly not a bureaucratic provision that can be waived for the short term,” said Congressman Boyd. “The WAIVER Act cuts through the red tape that could hamper our efforts to contain this crisis and protect our natural resources. Our communities deserve better, and I will continue fighting to ensure that they have unencumbered access to every resource they need to fight the oil.”

In 2005, the Jones Act was waived three days after Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf to allow foreign-flagged ships to assist with the disaster relief efforts. That waiver eased the transportation of fuel in the aftermath of the hurricanes.

More information on the BP oil spill crisis and Congressman Boyd’s efforts to protect North Florida can be found at www.boyd.house.gov/oilspill .

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